

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP ON:

**THE FISHERIES OF KISORO MINOR LAKES: LAKE KAYUMBU, LAKE
CHAHAFI, LAKE MULEHE AND LAKE MUTANDA**

**“TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHERIES RESOURCES OF
KISORO MINOR LAKES”.**

VENUE: KISORO COUNCIL HALL

**HOSTS: FISHERIES RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (FIRRI)
P.O.BOX 343, JINJA-UGANDA.**

28TH APRIL 2000

**FISHERIES RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (FIRRI)
PROCEEDINGS OF THE STAKE HOLDERS' WORKSHOP ON
KISORO MINOR LAKES HELD 28TH APRIL 2000 AT KISORO
COUNCIL HALL IN KISORO DISTRICT.**

SESSION 1: Chairman: Dr.T.Twongo, Acting Director FIRRI

Opening remarks by Charmin Workshop Organising Committee

The chairman organising committee Mr.J.Kamanyi called the meeting to order at 10.00a.m. He apologised for the wrong invitation date communicated to them by a second party. Other wise the exact date communicated had been 28/4/2000. However, he was happy that he got a higher turn up than he had even invited earlier on due to proper mobilisation at a short time and good response by the stakeholders. He outlined the proceedings for the day and facilitation of stakeholders.

Welcome address by the Session Chairman

The session chairman/Acting Director FIRRI welcomed the representatives of the Commissioner for fisheries, RDC Kisoro, Chairman LC5 and stakeholders who comprised of some councillors of LC3 and LC5, NGO's, Students, Teachers of Senior Secondary Schools, representatives of fishermen and fisheries extension staff etc to the workshop. He briefed the stakeholders on the role of FIRRI under NARO and this is basically to provide enhanced and sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources in a healthy water environment. This role is pursued through research in 4 major FIRRI programmes namely:

- Limnology
- Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Socio economics

He highlighted the emphasis NARO places on research that addresses problems identified by the stakeholders and noted that the workshop was about demand driven research originating from the people of Kisoro.

He emphasised that the workshop objectives were mainly to discuss the research findings and stakeholder experiences on the fishery resources of Kisoro minor lakes and to develop the way forward.

Speech by Guest of Honour

The representative of RDC Kisoro was invited by the representative of chairman LC5 to officially open the workshop. In his opening remarks, he emphasised the following.

- Sustainable utilisation of the fishery resources
- Importance of fish to the human population
- Importance of research in development
- The need for researchers to listen to stakeholders
- The need for stakeholders to respect recommendations from research
- Abuse of the research findings

Session 2 Chairman: Commissioner for Fisheries

The chairman session 2, Mr.D.Tilia representing the commissioner for fisheries opened the session pointing out:

- That the fisheries department emphasises sustainable fish utilisation
- That Kisoro was among the districts that benefited from the restocking exercises in the past.
- The Fisheries Department welcomes and appreciates the effort being made by FIRRI to revive the fisheries of Kisoro lakes.

The following papers were presented by FIRRI Researchers:

Physical – chemical, Algal composition and primary production in the four Kisoro minor lakes.

The paper looked at the importance of the water environment for fish production and the optimal physical chemical indices.

The recommendations were discussed with respect to management of the water environment.

Invertebrate communities of four Kisoro minor lakes and their role in fishery production.

The paper outlined the different micro and macro invertebrates found in the different lakes and the role they play in the food chain. Recommendations were discussed on the importance of invertebrates in fish production and how those not utilised could be made use of.

The fishery resources of Kisoro minor lakes

The paper discussed the history of the fisheries of Kisoro minor lakes, catch statistics, experimental catch results and the important biological and ecological aspects of the fishery.

Recommendations were made for the way forward to improve the fishery resources in the district of Kisoro.

Issues and questions arising out of the research findings presented to the stakeholders.

- 1 How important is the indigenous fishery of *c.carsoni* (Nsonzi) to the Kisoro population?
- 2 Why did the introduced fish species (the Common carp, Tilapias, Black bass) decline?
- 3 Are the lakes able to sustain any fishery?
- 4 How important was fishing pressure or use of destructive fishing gears and practices in the decline of the fisheries?

The participants came up with the following major issues that could have contributed to the decline of the fisheries of Kisoro minor lakes.

- 1 Bad exploitation methods resulting from ineffective management.
- 2 Human activities in the interland
- 3 Predation pressure due to the abundant otters
- 4 Irregular/under stocking
- 5 Under developed Aquaculture which led to high pressure on the capture fisheries
- 6 Lack of research information
- 7 Poor record keeping of fishery information, irregular and inadequate monitoring of the resources.
- 8 Laws which are inadequate and not enforced.
- 9 Lack of appropriate fishing gears on Kisoro markets – fishermen use all sorts of gears (small mesh size nets and traps) which are cheap to exploit the resource.
- 10 There is an uncoordinated exploitation and management effort on the fisheries.
- 11 Lack of appropriate local seed for restocking the lakes.

- 12 General lack of knowledge in fishery management by communities
- 13 Poor facilitation of extension staff.

Workshop recommendations on how to develop the fisheries of Kisoro minor lakes.

- 1 Kisoro local government takes as high priority the rehabilitation of the lakes.
- 2 There should be formation of lake committees for each of the four minor lakes and the composition should be worked out by the local authorities but should include local councils, secretaries for production, fishermen representatives etc.
- 3 There should also be management committees at subcounty level where these lakes are located.
- 4 District authorities should link with wild life authorities for control of otter populations on all the lakes.
- 5 The tentative recommendations for the gears, gear sizes and fishing methods were:-
 - Minimum gillnet mesh size of 4" fished passively
 - Minimum size of hooks as size 9. These could be regularly reviewed when need arises.
- 6 Immediate restocking of all the lakes followed by monitoring by FIRRI. FIRRI in conjunction with Fisheries Department should constantly advice on suitable species for restocking and exploitation methods. The following species were recommended
 - Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)
 - Ngege (*Oreochromis niloticus*)
 - Black bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) for mainly L.Mutanda
- 7 Aquaculture potential in the district to be re-evaluated and developed.
- 8 Need to establish a local source of seed for both Aquaculture and regular restocking of the lakes. There should be support to the local private initiatives in the venture.
- 9 The fisheries laws should be reviewed in consideration of the special conditions of the Kisoro lakes.

- 10 Regular sensitisation and training of communities, extension agents including provisions of literature.
- 11 Sufficient facilitation and motivation of extension staff

The way forward

FIRRI was to restock Lakes Chahafi and Kayumbu ~~with immediate effect~~ starting with 5000 fry of *Oreochromis niloticus* for each lake.

Closing remarks

Representative of Director FIRRI thanked the stakeholders for their full participation during the workshop and assured them of FIRRI'S commitment to Kisoro minor lakes fishery resources.

Representative of Commissioner for Fisheries

He said he was happy that FIRRI scientists have done commendable job to give an insite into the fishery resources of Kisoro and urged them to continue with constant monitoring. He wished the stakeholders a safe journey home and thanked them for the good spirit they displayed during the workshop proceedings.

Representative of LC5 (Guest of Honour)

The LC5 chairman was not in the district at the time of the workshop and was represented by councillor A.Bagena (LC5). In his remarks at short notice, he said that the workshop was very enlightening, relevant and interesting. He said that every memo sent to the president was always including the problems facing the Kisoro lakes fisheries but now they had got the answer.

The Kisoro Local Government was to play their part to make sure that the program of restocking the lakes goes on smoothly.

He requested FIRRI Scientists to continue monitoring Kisoro lakes and strengthen the link between FIRRI and Kisoro local leaders, private entrepreneurs in fry production and give the District support.

He thanked FIRRI for the work welldone and said that the District will always welcome the scientists." All Kisoro people are very co-operative" he continued "and will work closely with the researchers any time".

He wished the participants a safe journey home and advised the scientists to continue coming to Kisoro and not stop in Kabale town where the tarmac road stops afraid of venturing to marum roads of Kisoro.

The workshop was closed at 7 p.m.